

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Amendments to the Claims**

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Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of killing infectious cells comprising:
administering to ~~an~~ a lower respiratory tract epithelium surface an effective amount of a non-
ionic osmolyte, wherein
said surface has a fluid containing endogenous antimicrobials, thereby reducing the ionic
strength of said fluid containing said endogenous antimicrobials and promoting
antimicrobial activity against infectious cells.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said non-ionic osmolyte is xylitol.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said surface is external or internal.

Claim 4 (Canceled): The method of claim 1, wherein said surface is selected from the group
consisting of an external eye, an oral pharynx, and a vagina.

Claim 5 (Original): A method of killing infectious cells comprising:
administering to an external eye a composition comprising an antibiotic and an effective amount
of a non-ionic osmolyte, wherein said
external eye has a fluid containing endogenous antimicrobials, thereby reducing the ionic
strength of said fluid containing said endogenous antimicrobials and promoting
antimicrobial activity against infectious cells.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein said non-ionic osmolyte is xylitol.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of killing infectious cells comprising: